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Commentary Evaluation Exercises

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GNED 1300-16: The Science of Freedom

Instructor: Harry Wallace

Commentary Evaluation Exercises

Each student must complete six Commentary Evaluations. For each Evaluation, students must independently locate and review ostensibly nonfiction content that expresses some perspective relevant to the topic of freedom.

Commentaries may be drawn from any source, including film, television, and radio, but (at least) one must represent each of the following categories:

1. A book or book chapter accessed via the library stacks or via interlibrary loan (photo of cover required)
2. A hardcopy academic journal article accessed via the library stacks (photo of volume cover required)
3. An op-ed or editorial from a major newspaper or magazine that exists in hardcopy form (OK to access via internet)

Commentary Evaluations must include the following:

1. Name of author(s), title of message, identification of source/medium, and (if possible) internet address
2. Explanation of the message (explain freedom relevance if necessary).
3. Provide first-response evaluation of the content (not informed by more thorough analysis of the content, author, and source). Is the message compelling and/or persuasive?
4. Credibility assessment of message, author, and sponsoring source (e.g., evidence of expertise; advocacy or accuracy goal?; one-sided or balanced presentation?)
5. Report your final evaluation and note changes in your views based on a more careful analysis of message (e.g., what parts of the argument are flawed or missing?).

Commentary Evaluations must be submitted by email to me and Jessica by 11:59pm on the specified deadline dates. Intriguing Commentary Evaluations and the content reviewed may be shared with the rest of the class in TLearn Forum comments.